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After the performance he stood, evidently listening for a reply; none came, and, without another note, he disappeared, to be seen no more.

The partridge is about one-half the size of our grouse, and resembles it in plumage and style of flight. It seems a little strange that the time of incubation should be four weeks, while the grouse and the domestic hen sit only three weeks. A nest that I found in Iowa in 1874—on the ground—seemed rather small and too deep, the sixteen eggs being piled one upon another for three layers, at least. I was told that they were all sure to hatch.

Our eastern partridge are plump, fine-looking birds, but there are two varieties in California, the “mountain” and the “valley partridge,” more beautiful than ours.

EDITORIAL.

EDITORS, E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

FICTION and the newspapers form the staple of the reading of the American people. Serious books which treat of matters of fact have fewer readers; and exact or scientific books fewer still. In the estimation of some people this is an unfavorable state of affairs, and speaks ill for our intellectual condition. We take a somewhat different view of it. The newspapers treat mainly of matters of fact, and they are only worthy of complaint when they give undue prominence to trivial matters, and to the evil that men do, and not enough to those events which make for human development and progress. This criticism may be justly applied to many newspapers. Also there is fiction and fiction. A class of French fiction, which has imitators in other countries, on pretence of being “realistic,” is evil and only evil, and should be, in our estimation, like the “Kreutzer Sonata” of Tolstoi, excluded from the mails. But much fiction is instructive, both in the facts of human character and in those of nature, and is of great utility as conveying much truth, sugar-coated, to the unsuspecting reader. Besides, were fiction abolished the number